

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 are pending in the present application. The Examiner rejected claims 1-4 as being anticipated under § 102(b) by Stadius (U.S. Patent No. 4,635,288). Applicant submits herewith a request for continued examination pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. With entry of this Amendment, Applicant amends claims 1 and 2 and cancels claims 3 and 4 without prejudice. Reexamination and reconsideration are required.

The present invention is directed to a signal switch apparatus, such as a mixer, that allows a user to easily check the settings of output channels assigned to buses. Such checking can be performed by sending a checking signal. However, when a plurality of left and right channels are assigned to a plurality of buses, the same signal is outputted to the plurality of buses so it is difficult for the user to discriminate between the output channels.

The present invention allows for different checking signals to be used for the left channel output path and the right channel output path. To aid such testing, the present invention has a plurality of buses, each assigned a number, and allows a first checking signal to be input to those buses based on their odd numbered assignment, while a second checking signal to be input to those buses based on their even numbered assignment.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite: “a first checking signal generating device that generates first checking signals used for checking a left channel output path,” “a second checking signal generating device that generates second checking signals used for checking a right channel output path, the first checking signals and the second checking signals different from each other” and “a checking signal input device that causes the first checking signals to be input to buses based on their respective odd numbered assignment and causes the second checking signals to be input to buses based on their respective even numbered assignment.” Support for this amendment is based on the specification and drawings including, without limitation, page 8, lines 7 to 20 of the specification.

In contrast, Stadius fails to disclose checking signals to be input to buses based on their numbered assignment. Rather, in Stadius, the signals are to be input to buses based on arbitrary selections by the user, *i.e.*, the exact opposite of a predetermined selection based on number.

Specifically, Stadius discloses an electrical signal mixing apparatus that can cause input signals to be input to the lines of the main signal bus 107. The user can arbitrarily select lines to which the input signals should be input by switching switches in a switch card 104 as illustrated in Fig. 2. The opened/closed status of the switches in the card 104 can be changed individually as desired. (*See, e.g.*, Col. 5, line 69 to Col. 6, line 2.) Even if one accepts the Examiner's contention that the signals to be input to the lines of bus 107 are checking signals, the selection of the signals to be input to the lines is arbitrary and not based on a predetermined selection by number. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is not anticipated by Stadius.

Claim 2 depends from claim 1 and is not anticipated by Stadius for at least the reasons set forth above.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

If, for any reason, the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, Applicant requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles telephone number (213) 892-5630 to discuss any steps necessary to place the application in condition for allowance.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing Docket No.

393032041600. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

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